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SIPDIS

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TAGS: PGOV PREL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/NICARAGUA: EU DIVIDED ON NEXT STEPS

REF: SECSTATE 122262

Classified By: Political Deputy Eric G. Falls for reasons 1.5(b,d)

¶1. (C) Poloff discussed reftel points with Dutch MFA Deputy Chief for Central American Affairs Laetitia van Asch Pieters.

She reported the EU agrees the Nicaraguan elections were flawed, as noted in the EU presidency statement of November 12, but the EU representatives in Managua are divided on whether to take a more confrontational approach with the GON.

Accordingly, the EU is not preparing a joint demarche to the GON at this time. The Netherlands decided earlier to reduce direct budget support to the GON from 12 million euros to 6 million euros for 2008, due the Nicaragua's exclusion of two political parties from the elections. Dutch diplomats are having trouble getting between home and work, and the Dutch MFA is "upgrading its security."

FOSTER